

Sumner Strait Advisory Committee
Box 48
Pt. Baker, AK 99927

Local Boundary Commission
550 W. 7th Ave. Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK. 99501-3501

Dear Commissioners:

Feb. 17, 2003

The topic of standards for inclusion in the Prince of Wales Model Borough for the two communities of Pt. Baker and Port Protection was discussed at our recent meeting. Our Committee believes that some important characteristics of our communities were overlooked by your commission, and that if these factors were given just consideration we would be better served by being included in the Gustavus Model Borough.

Commercial fishing, along with a significant dependence on subsistence harvesting is what characterizes Pt. Baker and Port Protection. The other communities on Prince of Wales Island are more interested in the timber industry and in developing transportation and better access to the island. Both of those interests we believe are in direct conflict with what we value most, which is our subsistence lifestyle. We think that our way of life and values are more similar to those of communities such as Pelican and Elfin Cove than they are to those of Craig and Thorne Bay. We also think that shared values are more important factors in determining who will be in the same borough than geographic proximity. Apparently you also do not necessarily weigh geography that heavily in your inclusion criteria, otherwise Edna Bay, and Port Alexander which are not on Prince of Wales Island would not be included in your P.O.W. model Borough.

Our villages are grateful that the Alaska National Interest and Lands Conservation Act was enacted to protect our subsistence way of life. We would urge you to consider the provisions of that act of congress in your decisions regarding the make-up of any proposed future boroughs. Thank you for your consideration.

Donald Hernandez
Chairman

